

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 17, 2004 has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application, with claims 5, 6, 9, and 10 being withdrawn. No claims have been amended or newly added, and claims 1-6, 9-11, and 17-20 have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 7, 8, and 12-16 are pending in the application.

Applicants sincerely thank the examiner for indicating that claims 7, 8, and 12-16 are allowed.

This amendment deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, are presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 11, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,308,672 to Lichti et al. (hereafter “Lichti”) in view of legal precedence. Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lichti, in view of legal precedence as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of legal precedence. Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lichti in view of legal precedence as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. patent 5,736,633 to Magner et al. (hereafter “Magner”) in view of Lichti. Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lichti in view of legal precedence and Magner in view of Lichti as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of legal precedence. Claims 1-6, 9-11, and 17-20 have been canceled making these rejections moot.

Since only allowed claims remain pending, the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding the application, or if an examiner's amendment would facilitate the allowance of one or more of the claims, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account No. 19-0741 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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